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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: The Situation Room

SUBJECT: Morning News Summary

The Washington Post

Paul Ellman reports that General Antonio Ramalho Eanes, Portugal's army chief, was heading toward a handsome victory early today in the country's first free presidential election in half a century. (A-1)

A French airliner with more than 200 passengers aboard, hijacked by pro-Palestinian guerrillas, landed in Uganda's international airport early this morning. Airport sources said Uganda's President Idi Amin was expected to come to the airport to direct operations. (A-1)

Thomas Lippman reports that Beirut airport was closed again yesterday after a Middle East Airlines jet was hit by shell or rocket fire shortly after it landed. The plane went up in flames. (A-1)

Hobart Rowen writes that according to President Ford the western world's "main job" in the years ahead will be to cut back overambitious efforts "to achieve an ever-rising standard of living." American officials would not disclose the reaction of the other heads of state to Mr. Ford's call for a policy of more restrained economic growth. (A-1)

Peter Osnos writes that there is no room for whimsy in the Soviet scientific establishment, the Academy of Sciences has ruled, and de-Stalinization does not extend to making the late dictator a fit subject for jokes. (A-8)

Robert Toth reports that on the face of it, the scientific council of the Institute of Linguistics of the Soviet Academy of Science was meeting to review the work of a senior researcher before his recertification to his post. Normally it would be a matter of form. But in reality, the senior scientist -- Igor Alexandrovich Melchuk, said by U.S. and Soviet linguists to be the best in his field -- was being tried behind closed doors for political nonconformity. (A-8)

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The New York Times

Philip Shabecoff reports President Ford's statement that a concerted effort is needed to head off potential world economic problems and crises. However, sources close to the visiting delegations said that enthusiasm for the meeting was fairly low. Judging by comments from these sources, there appears to be a kind of consensus among the participating countries, except for the U.S., that there was no great need for this meeting because the heads of nations have been seeing each other frequently on a bilateral basis. (1)

Flora Lewis notes that like their comrades around the country, the members of the Monteverde Nuovo section of the Italian Communist Party met last week to analyze election results and the work they had done for the cause. It is hard to imagine any other Communist Party that would admit outsiders, let alone a pair of American reporters, to a regular membership meeting. When the visitors arrived, heads turned to stare, but then the meeting went on, apparently as usual. (2)

Terence Smith writes that Transportation Minister Gad Yaacobi warned that Israel would take all necessary action "both politically and in other spheres" to protect the Israelis aboard a hijacked Air France plane. Mr. Yaacobi declined to specify what actions the government had in mind. (4)

John Darnton reports that ships laden with cement that have paralyzed Nigeria's ports for the last 15 months are gradually being unloaded and sent on their way, but the scandal that brought them to Nigeria may not yet have run its course. Charges have arisen that millions of tons of cement, ruined in the hulls of waiting freighters has found its way to small contractors. The cement scandal was a major reason for the coup that overthrew the regime of former General Gowon last July. (6)

UPI reports that demonstrators set fire to Communist Party headquarters in Radom, Poland, during strikes Friday protesting government food price increases. Residents of Radom, 60 miles south of Warsaw, said several people were injured when police used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators. There were no reports of fatalities or use of firearms. (8)

Reuter reports that the Soviet Union's top Communist ordered an all-out campaign against ideological deviation, corruption and nationalism in the Caucasian republic of Georgia, which has been disturbed recently by a series of bomb and arson attacks. (9)

The secretary general of the OAS, Alejandro Orfila, has declared that his "strong personal feelings" in the matter of human rights led him to visit the Tres Alamos detention center in Chile earlier this month. Mr. Orfila said he was "somewhat startled" at the interpretation given to the visit in the press, but that he felt that "all coverage of the issue of human rights is beneficial." (9)

Paul Kemezis writes that this weekend, the Belgians celebrated the silver jubilee of the reign of King Baudouin, and the throne is on solid ground. The once nervous youth, now with contact lenses and a relaxed smile, is one of Europe's most experienced and respected monarchs. (10)

Juan de Onis reports that terrorism by left-wing extremists in Argentina has provoked counterterrorism by security forces that the military government is trying to bring under control. (12)

Jonathan Kandell writes that the pro-government majority in the Brazilian congress has rammed through a bill prohibiting the two political parties from using radio or television for campaigning during municipal elections scheduled later this year. This was the latest demonstration of why the 12-year-old armed forces' regime remains a military dictatorship with a parliamentary facade. (14)

Christopher Lydon reports that John Connally's Committee for Freedom in the Mediterranean, which took full-page advertisements in several Eastern newspapers recently, had "no substantial effect" on the Italian elections last weekend, Mr. Connally cheerfully conceded. For that matter, the ads got "a very modest response" in this country. (19)

A Times editorial comments that Italy's prospects of successfully coping with its colossal democratic system now depend largely on two factors: (1) the capacity of the Christian Democratic Party for harnessing the country's immense human resources, and (2) the willingness of the second-place Communists to make a positive contribution to the recovery process rather than obstructing or sabotaging it. In any serious effort the Catholic party at times will require the neutrality of the Communists and perhaps even their active support. Such dependence will be precarious for a government with an uncertain parliamentary majority. But it probably is the least hazardous political way for Italy to travel in the near future. If the elections confirmed the Christian Democrats as Italy's leading political force, certain to head any government for the predictable future, they also confirmed that the Communist tide is still flowing in Italy --

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a development of which any government must take account, a fact of life with which Italy's friends and allies must abide. (26)

The Baltimore Sun

Art Pine writes that President Ford opened a seven-nation economic summit conference yesterday with a stern call for go-slow monetary and fiscal policies to prevent any revival of inflation. The President's warnings contained no specific proposals and, in effect, amounted to a repetition of views the administration has expressed several times before. There was no immediate announcement how the other leaders had reacted to the presentation. However, international sources indicate Great Britain and Italy opposed the go-slow suggestion. (A-1)

Matthew Seiden writes that the widow of Hideki Tojo, Japan's war-time dictator, and two of the four surviving Tojo cabinet war-crimes convicts insist on Tojo's and their innocence and claim that the U.S. shares a large part of the blame for starting the war in the Pacific. (A-1)

A special from Ottawa reports that safety in the skies is the issue which closed down virtually all Canadian air traffic last week, according to striking airline pilots, but Prime Minister Trudeau claims the question is much deeper -- it is a matter of national unity. (A-2)

AP reports that Brezhnev and President Tito arrived in East Berlin for the congress of European Communist parties. President Tito's arrival marked the first Yugoslav participation in such a gathering since 1957. (A-2)

A Sun editorial comments that for the third time in two decades, Polish workers have displayed a splendid capacity to bring their Communist bosses into line. The latest troubles should not be taken as a sign that the Gierek regime is especially repressive, which it is not, or that the workers' grievances are wholly justified, which they are not. What the troubles do show is the near impossibility of making a centrally planned economy work well in a nation like Poland. The Warsaw Communists should have learned by now that their problems will not be solved either by economic regimentation or by an over-indulgent level of consumption. But while the situation cries out for incentives that will increase production, the regime is caught up in the "contradictions" of its own ideology. (A-8)

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Ruth Cale comments that few Israelis kid themselves that the upheavals in East Jerusalem and occupied West Jordan are tapering off or will one day be recalled as a regrettable interlude in what is regarded as a benign occupation, as occupations go. The Israelis' dilemma is that they cannot forestall the spiralling of violence unless they employ ugly repressive measures. Exposed to criticism from all over the world of the way their security forces dealt with mobs of jeering children and adolescents hurling rocks and empty bottles at them, they do not want to aggravate the situation. (A-8)

Garry Wills comments that the Nuremberg principle has been challenged in its international application. Some say international law is not recognized by all nations. In domestic affairs, when we are dealing with fellow citizens under a single legal system, there can be no defense for breaking a law on the grounds that "I was just obeying orders." Many well-documented crimes against American citizens have been committed by agents of the CIA and the FBI. Yet no single perpetrator of these multiple crimes has been brought to trial. To some Americans, the idea of holding a G-man to account for undermining the Constitution is unthinkable. These people have been treated as above the law. (A-9)